

Governor's Office,
Richmond, Va., July 12, 1909.



Editor Times-Dispatch:

In reply to your inquiry as to the progress of the public schools of Virginia, will say that in no year in the history of the Commonwealth have the public schools made more progress than in the one just closed. The number of scholars has been larger than ever before. The interest manifested by those attending the schools has been greater. The average school term has been longer. The teachers have been more efficient and received greater compensation than at any previous time. The courses taught in the public schools have been better graded and more thorough. During the last year a great many more graded and high schools were established. The State has continued at a rapid pace the construction of fine and splendidly equipped school buildings. The rivalry in every section in this re-

spect has been great, and produced most beneficial results. In almost every section of the State can be seen beautiful and well-constructed school buildings. The improvement and progress in this direction are amazing.

During the last year twenty normal training high schools were established in various sections of the State, in which teachers can be equipped for the primary schools. These schools will be productive of great good.

The agricultural schools have been located in each of the congressional districts, and next session will commence their work.

The local authorities have generously aided the State contribution for the successful operation of these schools. I anticipate great results from the operation of these schools.

There are being held in the State fourteen summer normal schools, where the teachers will have an opportunity to equip themselves for more successful teaching. These normal schools have been conducive of great good. Nearly four thousand teachers will avail themselves of this opportunity to learn modern and scientific methods of teaching. The attendance on these summer normal schools is much larger than in any other Southern State.

The increased appropriations by the last General Assembly for school purposes (which were large and generous) have been wisely expended and show splendid results.

Our State colleges and universities have also made marked improvement. These each year respond more directly to the wants and needs of the people and of modern life. The courses taught more directly touch the daily life of the people, and the men and women graduating from these colleges become at once equipped for the prosecution of practical business affairs.

A thrill of enthusiasm, hope and inspiration exists in the entire educa-

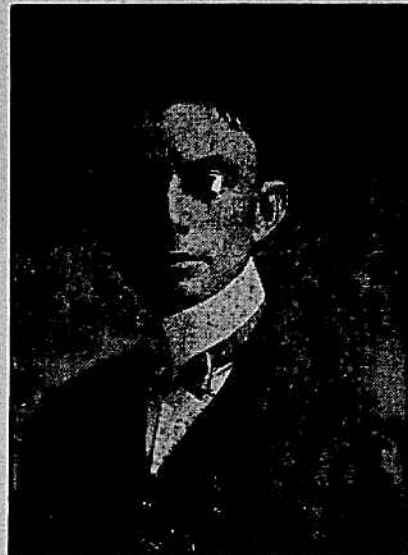
tional system of Virginia, extending from the small primary school to the splendid university. The fight for better school-houses, better teachers, better courses, better educational opportunities in this State, has been won, and I believe from now on each year will witness a continued progress and improvement.

I hope the next General Assembly will follow the pace set by the last General Assembly, and also become noted in the history of Virginia as a great "educational Legislature."

The improvement in the educational system and methods have also produced increased material prosperity and progress. The educational skies of Virginia were never before illumined with more hope and brighter prospects.

CLAUDE A. SWANSON,
Governor.

Government House,
Porto Rico, May 21, 1909.



Editor Times-Dispatch:

My own opinion, and that of all my colleagues in the government of Porto Rico, upon the value of education to the public welfare can best be shown by the appropriations made for public education in the island of Porto Rico, where practically one-fourth of the moneys expended by the government are spent for the public school system of the island.

REGIS H. POST,
Governor of Porto Rico.

Governor's Office,
Bismarck, N. K., May 29, 1909.

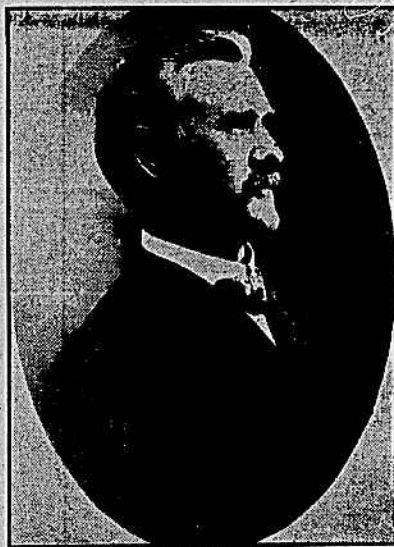


Editor Times-Dispatch:

Education increases the intelligence of the people, and the more intelligent the people, the more are they qualified to take care of themselves as individuals and the better are they enabled to exercise the highest prerogatives of citizenship under our republican form of government.

JOHN BURKE,
Governor of North Dakota.

Governor's Office,
Des Moines, Ia., June 15, 1909.



Editor Times-Dispatch:

A government of and by the people depends upon the education of its component parts. Through its agency the republic will reach its ultimate greatness. Education should be practical, not theoretical; broad, not deep; and should have as its aim the fitting of humanity for greater good and service, both to country and to self.

B. F. CARROLL,
Governor of Iowa.

Governor's Office,
Augusta, Me., June 16, 1909.



Editor Times-Dispatch:

I am heartily in favor of any measure that will tend to promote the educational interests of the people at large.

BERT M. FERNALD,
Governor of Maine.